

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168257

EXDIS GENEVA FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUSAKA 2339 ACTION SECSTATE JUN 30

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2339

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH US UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA: GRAHAM/LOW MEETING WITH SITHOLE--SALSIBURY,
JUNE 26.

1. GRAHAM AND I MET ALONE WITH SITHOLE ON JUNE 26. THE CONVERSA-
TION WAS FRANK AND AT TIMES HEATED AS SITHOLE DEFENDED THE
PROGRESS OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. WE SAID THAT WE HAD
TALKED TO MANY PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY AND THAT WHILE WE RECOG-
NIZED THAT SOME PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE TOWARDS A CEASEFIRE
IN THE EAST (SHONA AREA) WE SAW LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF THIS
HAPPENING IN THE WEST AND THAT THEREFORE WE DID NOT SEE HOW
AN ELECTION COULD BE CARRIED OUT WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY
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THE WORLD AS A GENUINE EXPRESSION OF THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE
OF RHODESIA. SITHOLE INSISTED THAT THE CEASEFIRE PROGRAM
WAS WELL IN HAND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND THAT PEACEFUL CON-
DITIONS WOULD PREVAIL BY THE TIME OF THE ELECTIONS. HE SEEMED
CONVINCED THAT THE UK AND THE U.S. WERE SHOWING PARTIALITY
TOWARDS PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS. ONLY THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA
COULD MAKE A DETERMINATION OF THIS KIND. THEY WOULD RESIST

ANY IMPOSITION FROM ABROAD.

2. WE DENIED PARTIALITY TO ANY OF THE CANDIDATES SAYING THAT OUR FULL EFFORTS WERE DIRECTED TOWARDS PROVIDING A PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD ENSURE IMPARTIAL ELECTIONS SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA COULD EXPRESS THEIR PREFERENCE. SITHOLE INSISTED THAT HE AND HIS GROUP WOULD FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN RATHER THAN GIVE IN TO THOSE WHO WERE SUPPORTED ONLY BY EXTERNAL FORCES WHICH HE CONCEDED WERE SOVIETS AND CUBANS. HE SAID THEY WOULD CARRY THE FIGHT INTO MOZAMBIQUE, ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA IF NECESSARY.

3. WE DIRECTED THE CONVERSATION BACK TO AN ALL PARTIES MEETING NOTING THE TWO FORMS WHICH THE MEETING COULD TAKE. WE SAID THAT WE THOUGHT THAT THE PF MIGHT AGREE TO ENTERING PRIVATE PREPARATORY LEVEL TALKS PROVIDED THAT A DATE AND PLACE HAD BEEN AGREED ON FOR A FINAL CONFERENCE AND THAT THE INTERNAL GROUP MIGHT AGREE TO SET SUCH A DATE AND PLACE PROVIDED THAT IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT SATISFACTORY PREPARATORY LEVEL TALKS MUST TAKE PLACE FIRST. SITHOLE SAID HE COULD GO ALONG WITH THE PREPARATORY WORKING LEVEL TALKS BUT HE WOULD NOT AGREE TO SETTING A DEFINITE DATE FOR A CONFERENCE AHEAD OF TIME. WE DISCUSSED WITH HIM THE POSSIBILITY OF SECRET TALKS AT THE LEVEL OF PRINCIPALS. WITHOUT ANSWERING DIRECTLY, SITHOLE ACCUSED THE PF LEADERS OF TRYING TO DESTROY HIM POLITICALLY. HOWEVER HE SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET WITH NKOMO "MAN TO MAN" AND FINALLY AGREED TO THINK OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING OF PRINCIPALS. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. GRAHAM ASKED SITHOLE ABOUT HIS MEETING WITH GARBA. HE SHOOK HIS HEAD AND SAID THAT GARBA WANTED HIM TO ACCEPT NKOMO AS PRESIDENT. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THIS KIND OF FOREIGN IMPOSITION ANYMORE THAN THAT OF THE FRONTLINE OR OAU.

5. SITHOLE SAID HE INTENDED TO GO WITH A LARGE DELEGATION TO THE OAU MEETING IN KHARTOUM. IF THEY WANTED TO TURN HIM BACK AT THE AIRPORT OR REFUSE TO ALLOW HIM TO ADDRESS THE MEETING THAT WOULD BE UP TO THE OAU, BUT THEY WOULD THEN HAVE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CIVIL WAR WHICH FOLLOWED IN RHODESIA. LO
LOW UNQUOTE VANCE

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